

(b) We need to meet soon after your request for a hearing is received to select a hearing officer/hearing panel.

3. *Scheduling of Hearing:* The hearing will be scheduled to be held within 15 days after we receive your request for a hearing. It will be held at a time and place convenient for both of us. If we cannot agree on a time and place, the hearing officer/hearing panel will designate the time and place.

4. *Examination of Records:* You have the opportunity before the hearing to examine and, at your own expense, to copy all documents, records, and regulations that are relevant to the hearing unless otherwise prohibited by law.

5. *Procedures Governing Hearing:*

(a) The hearing will be an informal proceeding before a hearing officer or hearing panel at which both parties will have an opportunity to present their sides of the dispute.

(b) Both parties may be represented by legal counsel or another person of one's choice.

(c) You have a right to a private hearing, unless you request a public hearing.

(d) Both parties have the right to present evidence, arguments, and witnesses to support their sides of the dispute, to refute evidence relied upon by the other party, and to confront and cross-examine all witnesses.

(e) A decision will be based solely and exclusively upon the facts presented at the hearing.

Subpart M [Reserved]

Subpart N—Housing Preservation Grants

SOURCE: 58 FR 21894, Apr. 26, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1944.651 General.

(a) This subpart sets forth the policies and procedures for making grants under section 533 of the Housing Act of 1949, 42 U.S.C. 1490(m), to provide funds to eligible applicants (hereafter also referred to as grantee(s)) to conduct housing preservation programs benefiting very low- and low-income rural residents. Program funds cover part or all of the grantee's cost of providing loans, grants, interest reduction payments or other assistance to eligible homeowners, owners of single or multiple unit rental properties or for the benefit of owners (as occupants) of consumer cooperative housing projects (hereafter also referred to as co-ops).

Such assistance will be used to reduce the cost of repair and rehabilitation, to remove or correct health or safety hazards, to comply with applicable development standards or codes, or to make needed repairs to improve the general living conditions of the resident(s), including improved accessibility by handicapped persons. Such assistance will be used to reduce the cost of repair and rehabilitation, to remove or correct health or safety hazards, to comply with applicable development standards or codes, or to make needed repairs to improve the general living conditions of the residents, including improved accessibility by persons with a disability. Individual housing that is owner occupied may qualify for replacement housing when it is determined by the grantee that the housing is not economically feasible for repair or rehabilitation.

(b) The Rural Housing Service (RHS) will provide Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) assistance to grantees who are responsible for providing assistance to eligible persons without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability.

(c) The preapplication must only address a proposal to finance repairs and rehabilitation activities to individual housing or rental properties or co-ops. Any combination proposal will not be accepted.

(d) Any processing or servicing activity conducted pursuant to this subpart involving authorized assistance to RHS employees, members of their families, known close relatives, or business or close personal associates, is subject to the provisions of subpart D of part 1900 of this chapter. Applicants for this assistance are required to identify any known relationship or association with an RHS employee.

[58 FR 21894, Apr. 26, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 26208, May 13, 1997]

§ 1944.652 Policy.

(a) The policy of RHS is to provide HPG's to grantees to operate a program which finances repair and rehabilitation activities to individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops for very low- and low-income persons. Individual housing that is owner occupied